

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/628,548

Examiner

Michael P. Nghiem

Applicant(s)

SOULUER, FARID

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 27 July 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1-23-06</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Mr. Charles Riddle during a telephone interview on August 4, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Drawings:

Fig. 1B, insert the label – Prior Art – (see attached proposed drawing).

Replace claim 18 with the following:

-- 18. (Currently Amended) A method of improving logistical efficiencies associated with the delivery of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) or fuel oil to a number of remotely dispersed tanks over a geographic area comprising:

sensing the liquid level in at least one tank;

transmitting at least one signal conveying a tank identifying indicia and a liquid level relating to the identified tank;

receiving at least one signal conveying the tank identifying indicia and the liquid level relating to the identified tank;

correlating the tank identifying indicia and the liquid level relating to the identified tank with a geographical location for the tank;

grouping the tank identifying indicia and the liquid level relating to the identified tank with the geographical location for the tank in a unique data array;

storing the unique data array in a database containing a plurality of data arrays;

sorting and/or filtering the data arrays within the database by liquid level and/or geographical location to create a sorted and/or filtered database; [[and]]

identifying at least one delivery route through a region that encompasses at least one of the geographical locations present in the filtered database; and

plotting the at least one delivery route. --

Reasons For Allowance

Please see Applicant's Remarks filed on July 27, 2006 for the reasons for allowance.

Farner (US 2002/0154017) discloses measuring a level of a storage container and transmitting a signal representing the container level (Fig. 1). However, Farner does not disclose transmitting a signal conveying the container indicia and, thus, does not disclose grouping the container identifying indicia and the liquid level relating to the identified container with a geographical location for the container.

Parker III et al. (US 6,715,514) an efficient apparatus and method for managing the delivery of fluid material from a source to a user (Abstract, lines 1-3). However, Parker III et al. does not disclose at least grouping the tank identifying indicia and the liquid level relating to the identified tank with the geographical location for the tank.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P Nghiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-2277. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Michael Nghiem

August 4, 2006

